

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of organizing a plurality of objects, comprising the steps of:
selecting a first and second object from the plurality of objects;
creating a group from the first and second objects;
designating one of the selected objects as a representative of the group;
and,
displaying the representative of the group with the plurality of objects.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein an object may be part of more than one group.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of designating a representative is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of selecting first and second objects.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the representative of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object being displayed is a representative of the group.
5. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
detecting a third object; and,
adding the third object to the group, responsive to the detecting step.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the objects of the group may be viewed by
2 selecting the representative.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the representative of the group may be
2 changed.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the objects of the group will be treated as
2 a single object such that when a search is performed on the plurality of objects the
3 representative will be returned if any of the objects of the group meet a search
4 parameter.

1 9. An article of manufacture including an information storage medium wherein
2 is stored information for programming a computer to perform a method of
3 organizing a plurality of objects, the method comprising the steps of:

4 selecting a first and second object from the plurality of objects;

5 creating a group from the first and second objects ;

6 designating one of the selected objects as a representative of the group;

7 and,

8 displaying the representative of the group with the plurality of objects.

1 10. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein an object may be part of more than one group.

1 11. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein the step of designating a representative is performed by
3 designating the first object selected during the step of selecting first and second
4 objects.

1 12. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein the step of displaying the representative of the group further
3 includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object
4 being displayed is a representative of the first and second objects.

1 13. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, further including the steps of:
3 detecting a third object; and
4 adding the third object to the group responsive to the detecting step.

1 14. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein the objects of the group may be viewed by selecting the
3 representative.

1 15. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein the objects of the group will be treated as a single object such
3 that when a search is performed on the plurality of objects the representative will
4 be returned if any of the objects of the group meet a search parameter.

1 16. An article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as
2 in claim 9, wherein the representative may be changed.

1 17. An apparatus for organizing a plurality of objects, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a display device in communication with the processor; and,
4 a processor readable storage medium in communication with the
5 processor, containing process readable program code for programming the
6 apparatus to perform the method of organizing a plurality of objects, the method
7 comprising the steps of:

8 selecting a first and second object from the plurality of objects;
9 creating a group from the first and second objects;
10 designating one of the selected objects as a representative of the group;
11 and,
12 displaying the representative of the group with the plurality of objects.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein an object may be part of more than one
2 group.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the step of designating a representative
2 is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of selecting
3 first and second objects.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the step of displaying the representative
2 of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and
3 indicating that the object being displayed is the representative of the group.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor readable program code
2 contained in the processor readable storage medium further includes the steps of:
3 detecting a third object; and,
4 adding the third object to the group responsive to the detecting step.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the objects of the group may be viewed
2 by selecting the representative.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the objects of the group will be treated
2 as a single object such that when a search is performed on the plurality of objects
3 the representative will be returned if any of the objects of the group meet a search
4 parameter.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the representative may be changed.